

Proposed Rules

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains notices to the public of the proposed issuance of rules and regulations. The purpose of these notices is to give interested persons an opportunity to participate in the rule making prior to the adoption of the final rules.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

9 CFR Parts 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, and 130

[Docket No. 94-106-13]

RIN 0579-AA71

Importation of Animals and Animal Products; Public Meetings

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: We are advising the public that the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service will host five additional public meetings to discuss its plans for implementing a final rule and policy statement on the importation of animals and animal products that were published in the **Federal Register** on October 28, 1997.

DATES: The public meetings will be held in Riverdale, MD, on April 1, 1998; in Atlanta, GA, on April 8, 1998; in Kansas City, MO, on April 15, 1998; in Denver, CO, on April 22, 1998; and in Sacramento, CA, on April 29, 1998. Each public meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. and is scheduled to end at 5:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The public meetings will be held at the following locations:

1. *Riverdale, MD:* The USDA Center at Riverside, Conference Rooms C and D, 4700 River Road, Riverdale, MD. Picture identification is required. Non-Federal personnel will be required to pass through a metal detector. Parking is available next to the building for a \$2.00 fee (have quarters or \$1 bills). The nearest Metro station is the College Park station on the Green Line, and is within walking distance.

2. *Atlanta, GA:* Peachtree Summit Federal Center, Conference Rooms A and B, 401 W. Peachtree Street, N.E., Atlanta, GA. Picture identification is required. Non-Federal personnel will be required to pass through a metal

detector. A pay parking garage is adjacent to the building.

3. *Kansas City, MO:* Federal Building, Rooms 244 and 245, 8930 Ward Parkway, Kansas City, MO. Enter on the south side of the building. Picture identification is required. Pay parking is available on the southeast side of the building.

4. *Denver, CO:* Denver Federal Center, Building 25, Lecture Halls A and B, 6th and Kipling, Denver, CO. Enter building through door E2. Picture identification is required. Pay parking is available on the east side of the building.

5. *Sacramento, CA:* California Department of Food and Agriculture Building, Auditorium, 1220 N Street, Sacramento, CA. Picture identification is required. Pay parking is available on O Street, between 9th and 15th.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Gary Colgrove, Chief Staff Veterinarian, National Center for Import and Export, VS, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 38, Riverdale, MD 20737-1231, (301) 734-8590.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) will hold five additional public meetings to discuss its implementation of the final rule and policy statement on the importation of animals and animal products that it published in the **Federal Register** on October 28, 1997. The final rule (62 FR 56000-56026, Docket No. 94-106-9) established procedures and a regulatory framework for recognizing regions, rather than only countries, for the purpose of importing animals and animal products into the United States. The final rule also established procedures by which regions may request permission to export animals and animal products to the United States under specified conditions, based on the regions' disease status. The final rule became effective on November 28, 1997. The policy statement (62 FR 56027-56033, Docket No. 94-106-8) describes the manner in which APHIS will apply the concepts of regionalization and risk analysis to regulating the importation of animals and animal products into the United States. The policy statement and regulations are in accordance with international trade agreements entered into by the United States.

On November 21, 1997, APHIS held a public meeting in Riverdale, MD, to discuss its plans for implementing the final rule and policy statement (see 62 FR 60161). The additional public meetings will be held in Riverdale, MD, on April 1, 1998; in Atlanta, GA, on April 8, 1998; in Kansas City, MO, on April 15, 1998; in Denver, CO, on April 22, 1998; and in Sacramento, CA, on April 29, 1998. The meetings will include a discussion of the following: (1) The contents of the final rule and policy statement; (2) how APHIS has applied the principles of regionalization to individual requests to date; (3) the Agency's plans for future implementation of regionalization; and (4) a demonstration of APHIS's Geographic Information Systems. The meetings are scheduled to end at 5:00 p.m. but may conclude prior to that time if APHIS has completed its presentations and has addressed all questions from attendees.

Done in Washington, DC, this 10th day of March 1998.

Terry L. Medley,

Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 98-6586 Filed 3-13-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

12 CFR Parts 210 and 229

[Regulations J and CC; Docket No. R-1009]

Collection of Checks and Other Items by Federal Reserve Banks and Availability of Funds and Collection of Checks

AGENCY: Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

ACTION: Advance notice of proposed rulemaking.

SUMMARY: The Board requests comment on the benefits and drawbacks associated with its same-day settlement rule, which became effective in January 1994, and the implications of potential modifications of that rule to reduce or eliminate legal disparities between the Federal Reserve Banks and private-sector banks in the presentment and settlement of checks. The same-day settlement rule requires paying banks to provide same-day settlement for checks presented by private-sector banks by